

New Library Leaders Named

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced three top leadership appointments last week. Together, the three new executives bring decades of experience in library advocacy, services, management and planning to their new positions.

Jason Broughton will serve as the new director of the National Library Service for the Blind and Print Disabled (NLS); Aslihan Bulut has been appointed Law Librarian of Congress; and Robin Dale has been named deputy librarian for Library Collections and Services.

“Jason Broughton, Aslihan Bulut and Robin Dale are accomplished librarians who bring a wealth of unparalleled experience and knowledge to their new roles at the Library of Congress, and we are excited about their vision and leadership plans to further strengthen our programs and services,” Hayden said.

As NLS director, Broughton will be responsible for oversight and administration of the NLS program, including the expansion of online and digital delivery of services.

Broughton, who starts at the Library on Sept. 12, was the first African American to serve as Vermont state librarian. Through strategic planning for the Department of Libraries, he established a long-term vision for the state library. For more than a decade beforehand, he held numerous library roles in South Carolina and Georgia, where he used his prior training as an educator to focus on issues including workforce development and public outreach.

Broughton earned an M.S. in library

NEW LEADERS, CONTINUED ON 4



Shawn Miller

Marcus Toler of the Collections Management Division loads Music Division holdings onto shelves in Module 6 on Monday.

Doors Open on New High-Tech Storage Module

The facility is the Library's sixth on the Fort Meade, Maryland, campus.

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

There was little fanfare on Aug. 16 when the Collections Management Division (CMD) carefully placed the first box on a shelf inside the Library's new high-tech storage facility – no ribbon-cutting, no crowds, no celebratory speeches. The quietness, however, had more to do with pandemic restrictions than the significance of the event.

The opening of Module 6 in Fort Meade, Maryland, this month is a major milestone in a multidecade project to house and preserve the Library's ever-expanding collections on the U.S. Army base. The

new module is the most technologically advanced storage and preservation facility on the site to date.

It is also the largest. At about 35,000 gross square feet, it is double the size of earlier modules and contains around 24,500 square feet of storage space. Ultimately, it will accommodate an estimated 2.6 million collection items.

On top of that, opening the module will allow the Library to close its Landover annex facility this fall, a long-planned goal.

MODULE 6, CONTINUED ON 6

DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at lidav@loc.gov.

Lynette Brown
Tiffany Corley Harkins
Stephanie Jefferson

Linda Malone
Kenneth Mitchell

PRESENTATION: RESULTS OF LIBRARY AUDIENCE SURVEY

Aug. 26, 11 a.m. to noon

[Online](#)

The Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement invites all staff to attend a presentation on the findings from a June 2021 survey of recipients of content from the Library's 60-plus unique GovDelivery lists. Contractor Morris Hargreaves McIntyre will present the data collected and present an analysis and recommendations that will enable the Library to deepen and broaden engagement with its current audience.

Questions? Contact the Signature Programs Office at signatureprograms@loc.gov.

Use passcode 363292 to join the presentation.

ANNOTATION AS ARTISTIC ACT

Aug. 26, noon

[Online](#)

Innovator in Residence Courtney McClellan will moderate a public virtual panel highlighting her new Speculative Annotation tool and the overlap between contemporary art and educational annotation practices. McClellan will be joined by Remi Kalir of the University of Colorado, Denver; Antero Garcia of Stanford University; and Amber Esseiva of Virginia Commonwealth University. The panel will address annotation as a social, educational, civic and creative act. Register [here](#).

QUARTERLY TECH FORUM

Aug. 24, 1:30 to 3 p.m.

[Online](#)

The Office of the Chief Information Officer (OCIO) invites all Library staff to attend its quarterly tech forum. OCIO senior leaders will update staff on recent information technology activities and field questions.

Staff can send an email to askthecio@loc.gov to submit a question in advance. Questions will also be accepted during the forum, which will be hosted on [Zoom](#).

CDP APPLICATION DEADLINE EXTENDED

The Human Capital Directorate has extended the application deadline for the virtual fall session of the Library's Career Development Program (CDP). Fourteen sessions will be offered weekly on Thursdays from Sept. 2 to Dec. 16. The deadline to apply is Aug. 23 at 4:30 p.m.

To register, applicants must submit a digital copy of the completed registration form to Susan Mordan-White at smordan@loc.gov by the deadline.

For application requirements and more information, visit the [CDP website](#).

GAZETTE

LIBRARY
OF CONGRESS

loc.gov/staff/gazette

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MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at loc.gov/staff/gazette.

GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

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GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the Sept. 3 Gazette is Wednesday, Aug. 25.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

To promote events through the Library's online calendar (www.loc.gov/loc/events) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to calendar@loc.gov by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to mhartsell@loc.gov and wmal@loc.gov.

LeVar Burton to Host Book Festival TV Special

Beloved actor, director and producer LeVar Burton will host a one-hour PBS special on Sept. 12 introducing television viewers to the 2021 National Book Festival and its lineup of authors, poets and writers.

“Open a Book, Open the World: The Library of Congress National Book Festival,” will premiere on PBS, PBS.org and the PBS video app. The program will offer a timely celebration of the power of books and discussions on some of the big topics of the day.

“Books open the world to us, fuel our imaginations and show us our common humanity, especially as we confront huge challenges in society,” said Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden. “We’re proud to collaborate once again with PBS and public television stations nationwide to celebrate the power of reading from our national library.”

Burton, a longtime champion of reading, will host the program from his public library in Los Angeles with Hayden appearing at the Library. The show will feature 20 authors discussing their newest books and speaking to the festival theme, “Open a Book, Open the World.”

“I’m proud and honored to join Dr. Carla Hayden to explore the National Book Festival,” Burton said. “A good book can take you on a journey. After the last year, we’re all ready to plot a new course, and books can be an amazing compass. Join me for the National Book Festival as some of our nation’s leading literary voices bring us a sense of renewal, discuss their newest work and open up a whole new world of possibilities.”

Authors featured in the special are Michael J. Fox, Roxane Gay, Lupita Nyong’o, Diane von Furstenberg, Bill Gates, Tana French, Annette Gordon-Reed, Amanda Gorman, Adam Grant, Yaa Gyasi, Mishal Husain, Kazuo Ishiguro, Chang-rae Lee, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, Viet Thanh Nguyen, Christopher Paolini, Sarah



Robyn Von Swank

LeVar Burton

Pearse, Angie Thomas, Martha Wells and Isabel Wilkerson.

Full interviews with each author will be featured in on-demand videos through the National Book Festival website at loc.gov/bookfest and will be released Sept. 17.

The 2021 virtual festival will invite audiences to create their own festival experiences from programs in a range of formats and an expanded schedule over 10 days, [from Sept. 17 through Sept. 26](https://loc.gov/bookfest).

Festival content will be available online through videos on demand, author conversations in real time and live question-and-answer sessions, as well as a new podcast series with NPR, the national television special with PBS and some in-person, ticketed events at the Library. Local libraries, community centers and attendees are also encouraged to host watch parties

and other community events in their local areas.

To create the broadcast, the Library is collaborating with PBS Books, a national programming initiative produced by Detroit Public Television. PBS will distribute the one-hour National Book Festival broadcast to public television stations nationally.

“Books have been a lifeline for so many of us during this most difficult year. They have offered us an escape from the pandemic but also advice on how to cope with its challenges,” said Rich Homberg, president and CEO of Detroit Public TV. “We are delighted to be working once again with the Library of Congress, the National Book Festival and this incredible lineup of authors to celebrate our love of all things literary.” ■

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at
www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/**

NEW LEADERS, CONTINUED FROM 1

and information science from the University of South Carolina, an M.S. in public administration from the University of South Florida and a bachelor's degree in biology from Florida A&M University.

Bulut served as acting law librarian for five months before her permanent appointment began this week. From 2019, she was deputy law librarian for collections at the Law Library, where she oversaw the Global Legal Collections Directorate as it established priorities and designed and executed Law Library initiatives related to physical and digital collections.

Before joining the Law Library, Bulut was director of academic services at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Library at San Jose State University, where she provided leadership, planning and administration for collection development, research support and instruction.

Earlier, she was program coordinator and librarian for foreign, comparative and international law at the Langdell Law Library of Harvard Law School and a reference librarian and lecturer in law at the Diamond Law Library of Columbia University School of Law.

A Turkish immigrant who has cultivated a love for libraries since high school, Aslihan has a J.D. from the City University of New York School of Law, a master's degree in library science from Rutgers University and a bachelor's degree from Montclair State University.

As deputy librarian for the Library Collections and Services Group, Dale will oversee the collaborative group that acquires, stewards, describes and shares Library collections. Prior to her promotion, which takes effect this week, she was associate librarian for Library Services, a position she had held since 2019.

Dale has more than 25 years of experience in library management and program administration, working in and with research libraries and library organizations, including Columbia University; the Research



Jason Broughton

Courtesy of Jason Broughton



Aslihan Bulut

Geraldine Davila Gonzalez



Robin Dale

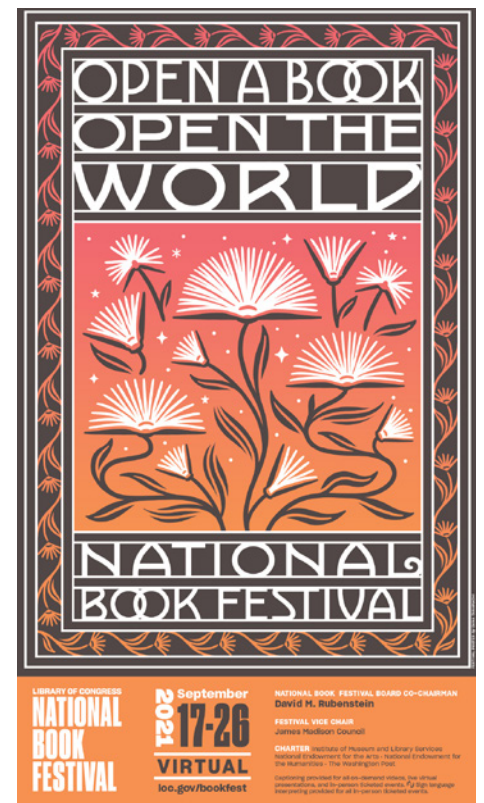
Libraries Group; the University of California, Santa Cruz; and the Institute of Museum and Library Services.

Tonya Russ Price, Poprock Photography

Throughout her career, Dale has been a strong advocate for libraries, and she has expertise in library technologies, digital library service development, collection access management and preservation, library space and renovation and personnel management.

Dale holds a master's degree in library and information science from the University of California, Berkeley, and she received a bachelor of arts degree from the University of California, Riverside. ■

2021 FESTIVAL POSTER UNVEILED



Dana Tanamachi, a New York City-based artist and designer and owner of Tanamachi Studio, designed the poster for this year's National Book Festival. In an interview with the Library, she said it dawned on her that an open book could look like a blossoming flower, and "the ideas started to flow." [Read more.](#)



Jonathan Kardashian

Jonathan Kardashian

Jonathan Kardashian is a user support specialist in the Congressional Research Services' (CRS) Publishing Office.

Tell us about your background.

I grew up along the Virginia side of the Appalachian Mountains, first in Roanoke, where I spent a lot of after-hours time at the science museum my mom worked at, then later in Berryville, a small town near Winchester.

After high school, I went to James Madison University, intending to major in computer science. However, after sampling courses from other fields I was interested in, I ended up being blown away by a metaphysics class and subsequently earned my undergraduate degree in philosophy and religion. From there, I took a gap year to teach English in Japan while working on graduate school applications. After being accepted into Claremont Graduate University, I

finished out my time in Tokyo and headed to Southern California, where I completed my master's in philosophy, specializing in epistemology and metaphysics.

I had worked a campus IT job between classes, which helped me secure a tech position back in central Virginia. Being much more of an urbanite, I slowly edged eastward toward Washington, D.C., working in places as disparate as an aerospace composites manufacturer and a brewery along the way before finally landing at the Library.

What brought you to the Library, and what do you do?

I was looking to get a job in the metropolitan area, ideally at a downtown cultural institution, where I could make use of both my academic (editorial) and professional (IT) backgrounds. Working as a user support specialist at the Library checks all of those boxes beautifully. I get to work with brilliant colleagues at the forefront of their fields on vital topics and help ensure their research makes it into the hands of congressional clients and the public alike.

Broadly speaking, I provide software training, documentation and technical publication support on CRS products and our customized authoring and publishing tool. Earlier this year, I also began reviewing CRS products in collaboration with the Publishing Office's quality-assurance team to garner additional editing experience.

What are some of your standout projects?

The largest endeavor I've been involved in was the public release of CRS reports. By congressional mandate and deadline, the project required publishing thousands of reports, some of which had to be reformatted for compatibility with current style and presentation standards.

I helped with sorting which reports needed what kind of specialized attention, training the project team on using customized publishing software and applying updated

report templates to hundreds of legacy document files.

What do you enjoy doing beyond work?

The Library has an abundance of clubs, organizations, seminars and more available to staff and the public. I like to take advantage of that and, time permitting, get involved in everything that catches my interest.

To that end, I'm a member of both the Library of Congress Professional Association (LCPA) and Asian American Association (LCAAA) to varying degrees. This year marks my second term as treasurer for the LCAAA, which consistently hosts great events highlighting Asian American and Pacific Islander achievements, history and culture.

As for the LCPA, I take part in the Japanese language table, the What If ... Science Fiction and Fantasy Forum and yoga classes. I also run a Dungeons and Dragons game played by Library colleagues that's been going strong for nearly two years, despite the pandemic and two TPKs (total party kills).

Outside of work, I like to globe trot, cook spicy food, homebrew beer and watch all of the Oscar-nominated films on the home theater I built.

What is something your co-workers may not know about you?

Though I tend to be fairly quiet and introverted, I'm a bit of an adrenaline junkie. I love to snowboard in the winter, rock climb year-round, skydive and motorcycle, and I'm currently learning how to scuba dive. My scariest experience, however, came from what should have been a simple trek up Mount Fuji. Starting just after midnight to catch the sunrise at the summit. Passing abandoned graveyards and empty, decaying buildings. Through the infamous Aokigahara Forest. By myself. ■

MODULE 6, CONTINUED FROM 1

Building a module of such complexity was no small feat. If a ribbon-cutting had been possible, expert staff from the Architect of the Capitol's (AOC) office and from divisions across the Library would have been on hand to celebrate a job well done.

"These sophisticated climate-controlled storage modules provide a cost-effective means for preserving a variety of materials and are essential for growth of the Library's collections," said Principal Deputy Librarian of Congress Mark Sweeney.

The presence of Library collections at Fort Meade originates from the transfer in 1994 of 100 acres on the Army base to Congress to expand the storage capacity of the Library and other legislative bodies. Later, Congress allocated funds to build Module 1 (completed in 2002), Module 2 (completed in 2005), Modules 3 and 4 and four cold storage rooms (completed in 2009) and Module 5 (completed in 2017).

A new module gets off the ground when Congress appropriates funds to the AOC's budget for design and, later, for construction. The AOC awards the construction contract and oversees construction. "But there's a lot of work that the Library does, too," Jim Duda of Integrated Support Services (ISS) said.

ISS serves as the Library's liaison to AOC, communicating the Library's requirements and supervising the Library's review of all the technical components of the project necessary to achieving its goals.

That's a big job, given that the modules are much more than just enormous warehouses. Working closely with the Office of the Chief Information Officer, the Security and Emergency Preparedness Directorate and the Preservation Directorate, ISS monitors installation of environmental controls, security systems, information technology and, in Module 6, inno-

KLUGE PRIZE WINNER DIES AT 91



John Harrington

Yu Ying-shih, considered by many to be the greatest Chinese historian of his time, died on Aug. 1 at age 91. Here, former Librarian of Congress, the late James Billington, awards Yu the John W. Kluge Prize for the Study of Humanity in 2006. [Read more.](#)

vative fire suppression technology. Combined, these components ensure the safety and longevity of Library collections.

"Purpose-driven" is how Duda describes the modules. "For those who say we're building a warehouse, I like to say it's more like a surgical suite. It's going to protect and preserve Library collections for generations."

Considering the emphasis on preservation, it's unsurprising that the expertise of the Preservation Directorate is required from the start. The directorate's Conservation Division takes the lead on planning environmental controls, the most important being temperature and humidity, Jacob Nadal, the Library's director for preservation, said.

The temperature in modules is maintained at about 50 degrees Fahrenheit with a relative humidity of 30 percent – anyone visiting a module would want to bring a

sweater. The cool climate greatly multiplies the life expectancy of Library materials, Nadal said.

"Chemical reactions are happening in Library materials all the time," he explained. "It's just like turning down the flame on a stove. ... Chemical reactions slow down."

Aggressive air filtration and the way collection items are housed – within containers – also extends their lifespan. "By putting materials in containers, we take light out of the equation and protect them during handling," Nadal said.

The containers are not ordinary boxes, however. Before they are ordered and after they arrive, the directorate's Preservation Research and Testing Division makes sure they meet preservation-quality specifications.

Yet another task for the Preservation Directorate is determining how much can fit into a module and how. That job, called planography, falls to CMD, the division that

oversees inventory control and space management for the tens of millions of collection items across the Library's Capitol Hill buildings and off-site facilities.

To maximize use of storage space, CMD sorts collection items not by subject matter as they might be in stacks but by shape and size. So, a book on history might be housed with a cookbook or maybe a philosophy or math volume.

"That allows us to pack as much material or collection items in the space as possible," said Matthew Martin, assistant chief of CMD. "Our inventory system then allows us to – if someone were to request a book – we are able to go directly to the shelf and find the specific box and book that is requested."

Given that Module 6 has close to 17,000 shelves extending 30 feet upward, getting to that point requires a lot of planning.

For each book that goes off-site, a contractor verifies in the Integrated Library System that the cataloging for the book is correct, updates its location to Fort Meade and verifies that appropriate labels are affixed. Then, the contractor's work is checked during a quality-assurance process. Next, the book is sized and fit into a box, which is also labeled. Off-site, staff check the contractor's work once again before linking boxes to shelves in the Library's inventory management system. A similar process is followed for special collections that go off-site.

The system has served the Library well: Over the years, CMD has reported a nearly 100 percent retrieval rate from Fort Meade storage.

Module 6 will include collection items from the American Folklife Center, the Veterans History Project and the Geography and Map, Manuscript, Music, Prints and Photographs, Rare Book and Special Collections and Serial and Government and Publications divisions. It will also house some new acquisitions and books from the Jefferson and Adams buildings in need of shelving.

"The Library is still over its capacity in the stacks, and that causes safety and egress issues," Nadal said. "Module 6 is an important step toward resolving that."

For the first time at Fort Meade, space will also be reserved in Module 6 for pallets holding unprocessed collections.

By the morning of Aug. 16, more than 32,000 containers from the Music Division and roughly 2,000 containers from the Prints and Photographs Division had been preprocessed.

"They were literally waiting outside the door, ready to be assigned a shelf," Martin said. "And we had

a plan for where every container would go on the shelf."

Nadal estimates that it will take three to four years to fill Module 6. In the meantime, Module 7 is already underway. Its design is complete, and AOC plans to identify a contractor to build it once funds are allocated.

"As you can imagine, building this type of module is a complex undertaking of many different parties working closely to overcome challenges," Sweeney said. "COVID didn't make that any less complicated. This module is a testament to that perseverance. Congratulations to AOC and the Library." ■

CELEBRATING THE SONGS OF SUMMER



The most recent episode of the [Folklife Today Podcast](#) explores the songs of summer, including "Wild Mountain Thyme" by the band In the Willows. [Read more.](#)

OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the [staff intranet](#).

To make a report, contact OIG via the [online form](#) or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.